

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 NEA-05 ADP-00 USIA-12 /028 W

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R 181343 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1286

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

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FROM QUINLAN MUSCAT

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MU, EMIN, ENRG, ETEL, ETRN, EFIS, OEXC

SUBJECT: IV - NOMINATION OF ABDU HAFIZ RAJAB, MINISTER
COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC SERVICES FOR 30 DAY

GRANT FY 73

REF: STATE 028361; MUSCAT 047

1. ACTING EDUCATION MINISTER KHALFAN BIN NASR INFORMED
US PRESS OF BUSINESS JULY FORCES HIM DECLINE GRANT. HE
EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN SIMILAR GRANT LATE 1973 OR
EARLY 1974 AND WE EXPECT NOMINATE HIM FOR FY 74 GRANT.
OUR SECOND ALTERNATE, HEALTH MINISTER ASIM JAMALI, WILL
BE ENGAGED IN CONFERENCES THROUGHOUT MONTH JULY.

2. CONSEQUENTLY, GIVEN LITTLE TIME REMAINING FY 73, I
INVITED MINISTER COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC SERVICES,
ABDUL HAFIZ RAJAB, WHO ACCEPTED SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT
SULTAN QABOOS. SULTAN GAVE AMBASSADOR STOLTZFUS HIS
AGREEMENT IN MEETING MAY 10 AND ON MAY 12 RAJAB TOLD
AMBASSADOR HE PREPARED TO LEAVE IN LATE JUNE.

3. RAJAB IS YOUNG, RUSSIAN- EDUCATED MECHANICAL
ENGINEERING GRADUATE WHO HAS RUSSIAN WIFE BUT IS
OUTSPOKENLY ANTI- COMMUNIST. HE IS LINKED TO SULTAN BY
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HIS DHOFARI ORIGINS AND HAS HELD VARIETY OF MINISTERIAL
POSTS IN PAST TWO YEARS, INCLUDING ECONOMY AND TRADE AND
INDUSTRY. MAIN COMPONENTS HIS MINISTRY ARE NOW POST
AND TELEGRAPH, PORTS, CIVIL AVIATION, PUBLIC HOUSING AND
WATER SUPPLIES. ALL THESE ARE NEW AND RAPIDLY EXPANDING
AREAS IN OMAN BUT BELIEVE SPECIAL PRIORITY SHOULD BE
GIVEN TO VISITS PORT CITIE

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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